

News From  
**SENATOR LINCOLN CHAFEE**  
**RHODE ISLAND**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$1.9 MILLION GRANT  
TO VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded a \$1,941,000 grant to the State of Rhode Island. The award to the Rhode Island Justice Commission (RIJC) will provide funds from the fiscal year 2002 Crime Victims Fund to enhance the State's victim compensation payments to eligible crime victims. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) compensation funds provide financial assistance to victims of both Federal and State crimes.

"Eligible victims of violent crime can be assured that financial help will remain available to them through this grant to the Rhode Island Justice Commission," said Chafee. "These individuals who have suffered an emotional trauma should not feel neglected by their government."

The Rhode Island Justice Commission (RIJC) has administered the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victims Assistance Program since 1985 when it was first enacted by Congress. It is funded through fines paid by those convicted of violating federal laws. The VOCA program has the most restrictive regulations of all RIJC-administered grant programs as funds are strictly intended to support direct services to victims of violent crime. The Act requires priority be given to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and other groups identified by the state as being "under-served" victims of violence crimes.

The Rhode Island Justice Commission made 26 VOCA awards in 2002 and an additional 26 in 2001 – totaling \$1 million each year.

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